

Sustainable Communities Strategy Update

Air Resources Board

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Sacramento, CA

California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act

- ▶ Signed into law in 2008
- ▶ Establishes a process to encourage a more integrated approach to regional planning
- ▶ Requires a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as part of Regional Transportation Plans (RTP)
- ▶ Ties regional greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets to SCS development

Regional Process to Implement SB 375

- ▶ First set of regional GHG reduction targets complete
- ▶ Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) lead regional SCS development
- ▶ MPOs develop a region-specific strategy
- ▶ Strong local government and stakeholder involvement
- ▶ Must show how an SCS would meet ARB targets

ARB's Role

- ▶ Statute limits ARB's review of SCSs
- ▶ ARB must accept or reject MPO's demonstration that SCS meets the target
- ▶ ARB notifies MPO of results of review

ARB's Goals

- ▶ Provide early technical input to MPO
- ▶ Continue the collaborative process
- ▶ Understand how the SCS would meet the target
- ▶ Establish workable process for all 18 MPOs

Understanding How the SCS Would Meet the Targets

- ▶ Use of modeling
- ▶ Data quality
- ▶ Understanding the model outputs
- ▶ Performance indicators

Use of Modeling

- ▶ Federal planning law requires modeling and sets modeling standards for RTP development
- ▶ Existing models are validated to federal standards and subject to California Transportation Commission Guidelines
- ▶ MPOs rely on models to simulate impacts of RTP policies
- ▶ Same models are used to develop SCS
- ▶ Provides ARB staff with the technical understanding of the methods used to quantify GHG emissions



Data Review

- ▶ Provides a quality check on the data inputs to MPO modeling tools
- ▶ Some data inputs impact results more than others
- ▶ Recognize inputs will vary by region

Understanding the Model Outputs

- ▶ Quality data used in sound models should result in reasonable output
- ▶ Models define the relationship between strategies and outcomes
- ▶ The models and data relationships are complex
- ▶ Model sensitivity tests help understanding of outcomes

Performance Indicators

- ▶ Also known as performance measures
- ▶ Traditionally used in RTPs and other federal and state documents to track change over time
- ▶ Regional Targets Advisory Committee recognized value
- ▶ Continued interest by stakeholders in developing and identifying regional indicators for monitoring purposes
- ▶ ARB staff is reviewing the changes in performance indicators

Summary

- ▶ SANDAG final RTP adoption anticipated in October
- ▶ SCAG and SACOG draft RTPs expected this Fall 2011, with final RTPs in Spring 2012
- ▶ Bay Area MTC RTP is scheduled for 2013
- ▶ San Joaquin Valley MPOs' expected to come back to ARB Board with additional target information in 2012; MPO RTPs due 2014
- ▶ Remaining MPOs in CA on similar schedules